

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH



2017 IDAHO CHILDCARE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS EXEMPTION

1. Why is there a new version of the childcare immunization exemption form?

During the 2017 Idaho Legislative session the Senate Health and Welfare Committee requested that the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare simplify the 2012 Idaho Certificate of Immunization Exemption form.

2. When will the 2017 version of the childcare immunization exemption form be available for use?

The 2017 version of the form will be available for use in August 2017.

3. Do parents need to complete the 2017 immunization exemption form if they have already submitted the 2012 form exempting their children from immunizations?

No. If the child already has the 2012 exemption form on file at your facility prior to August 2017, then parents do not need to resubmit the 2017 version of the form.

4. Are childcares required to use the 2017 Idaho Childcare Immunization Requirements Exemption form?

Per IDAPA 16.02.11, exemptions to immunization requirements are to be on a form provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Beginning August 2017, the 2017 Idaho Childcare Immunization Requirements Exemption form will be available online at www.ImmunizeIdahoChildcare.com.

5. If my childcare facility chooses, can we require that parents fill out the 2012 immunization exemption form instead of the 2017 exemption form?

Your facility has the authority to make this decision. IDAPA 16.02.11 states that licensed daycare facilities need documentation for exemptions to immunization requirements on a form provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. After August 2017, only the 2017 version of the exemption form will be available online at www.ImmunizeIdahoChildcare.com.

6. The 2017 Idaho Childcare Immunization Requirements Exemption form does not include information about vaccine-preventable diseases. Are licensed daycare facilities required to provide information to parents about vaccine-preventable diseases when parents choose to exempt their children from vaccinations?

No, licensed daycare facilities are not required by IDAPA 16.02.11 to provide information about vaccine-preventable diseases; however, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare recommends utilizing the “Why Immunize?” childcare immunization factsheet as a parent education tool. The factsheet can be found at www.ImmunizeIdahoChildcare.com.

7. Is the exemption form considered valid if it is not completed in its entirety or if sections are crossed off?

A childcare provider can do their best to complete sections of the form as needed to determine the immunization status of a child. If missing information or crossed off words prevent staff from determining the immunization status of a child, then it may be assumed that the child is exempt from all vaccinations.

8. The parent will only write the date of birth and not the name of the child on the exemption form. Can I write the child's name on the form to keep for my records?

Yes, in this case it is recommended that a childcare provider write the name of the child on the form, as the exemption form serves to help quickly identify the immunization status of exempted children in the event of a disease outbreak.

9. What do I do if a parent refuses to sign the exemption form? Do I need to keep the child out of my facility?

The childcare provider has the authority to make this decision. IDAPA 16.02.11 states that licensed daycare facilities need documentation for exemptions to immunization requirements on a form provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

10. Can childcare providers legally exclude children who are not immunized?

A childcare provider may exclude a child who has not submitted an immunization record or an exemption pursuant to IDAPA 16.02.11.150. Children with an immunization exemption on file may also be excluded during a disease outbreak. Please consult your public health district compliance officer for immunization exemption concerns not directly addressed in IDAPA 16.02.11.

11. Do I need to print the exemption form out for the parent, or is it the parent's responsibility to present the exemption form?

The parent, custodian, or guardian of any child who is to attend a licensed daycare facility in Idaho is responsible for providing evidence of the child's immunization status within 14 days of initial attendance per IDAPA 16.02.11.

12. When a parent presents a medical exemption or other immunization document requiring a physician's signature, does the term "licensed physician" only refer to the MD title in Idaho? Can it apply to other titles, such as NP, PA or chiropractor?

Only a licensed medical doctor or osteopath can sign for these documents. For the definition of a physician, please refer to page 3 of IDAPA 16.02.11.

PLEASE NOTE:

Per IDAPA 16.02.11 "The Idaho Legislature has granted to the Idaho Board of Health and Welfare the authority to adopt rules for the administration and enforcement of an immunization program for children attending licensed daycare facilities in Idaho, under Section 39-1118, Idaho Code."

Unless otherwise specified in IDAPA 16.02.11, this frequently asked questions document serves to assist childcare providers with exemption form guidance based on recommendations from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. For additional immunization guidance not specified in IDAPA 16.02.11, please consult your local public health district.



Contact the Idaho Immunization Program at (208) 334-6994 or visit www.ImmunizeIdahoChildcare.com.
